

**Key Values and Principles That Serve As the Foundation of
A Person-Centered System for
The Department of Health and Human Services**

[A person-centered system involves person-centered thinking,
planning and organizations.]

These guiding principles apply to the system serving all people who need long term services and supports, and their families. A person-centered system acknowledges the role of families or guardians in planning for children/youth and for adults who need assistance in making informed choices.

To be person-centered means:

- Treating individuals and family members with dignity and respect
- Helping individuals and families become empowered to set and reach their personal goals
- Recognizing the right of individuals to make informed choices, and take responsibility for those choices and related risks
- Building on the strengths, gifts, talents, skills, and contributions of the individual and those who know and care about the individual
- Fostering community connections in which individuals can develop relationships, learn, work/produce income, actively participate in community life and achieve their full potential
- Promising to listen and to act on what the individual communicates
- Pledging to be honest when trying to balance what is important to and important for the person
- Seeking to understand individuals in the context of their age, gender, culture, ethnicity, belief system, social and income status, education, family, and any other factors that make them unique

- Acknowledging and valuing families and supporting their efforts to assist family members
- Recognizing and supporting mutually respectful partnerships among individuals, their families, communities, providers and professionals
- Advocating for laws, rules and procedures for providing services, treatment, and supports that meet an individual's needs and honor personal goals
- Endorsing responsible use of public resources to assure that qualified individuals are served fairly and according to need

*Adopted by the Long Term Services and Supports Cabinet
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